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COMOR-D-25/33

18 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Short-Range Reconnaissance Program  
for the Far East

1. The COMOR has approved the attached statement of short-range requirements for Far Eastern reconnaissance (see COMOR-M-174, paragraph 6). It considers that approval of the United States Intelligence Board is not necessary in this instance because the requirements pertain to a continuing and on-going program.

2. It is recommended that the National Reconnaissance Office take such action as it deems necessary to obtain the reconnaissance in question.

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James Q. Reber  
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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Short-Range Reconnaissance Program for the Far East

1. In connection with its review of a U-2 reconnaissance program for the Far East over the next 12 months which will be submitted in the near future, COMOR has taken stock of requirements for which U-2 operations have been currently approved and those which should be fulfilled within the next 3 months (June, July, and August).

2. Requirements for Which There are Current Approvals:

a. North Korea and Manchuria - May or June 1963  
One mission has been run and another is now awaiting good weather.

b. South China - As soon as feasible

c. Laos and North Vietnam - Current (May/June)  
requirements have been or are in process of being satisfied.

d. Sino-Indian Border - Requirements have been levied for May; however, it is understood that for operational reasons this is not likely to be feasible at this time.

e. It is understood that approval exists for recovery (if necessary due to incomplete coverage of recent missions) of Lan Chou, Shuang Cheng Tzu missile-test range, Pao Tou, and the Szechwan Basin. These will be treated in the next paragraph.

3. Other Requirements for U-2 Coverage in the Far East  
During the Next 3 Months:

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b. Missile-Test Range - The level of activity observed recently suggests that in the near future the ChiComs may conduct flight tests. Our recommendation is for TACKLE recoverage in late June or early July. This will permit observation of the rate of construction; if testing has started, it may also provide indications of the type of missiles involved.

c. Szechwan Basin - The mission in this area was requested primarily to search river areas for indications of nuclear activity. A portion of this search has been accomplished and the secondary industrial targets were satisfactorily covered. A new requirements study has been completed on those river areas to be searched for nuclear activity. Although some of these will lie in or near the Szechwan Basin, this will no longer be set forth as the primary target for indications of nuclear activity. These will be covered in paragraph 3d below. Coverage of industrial and other targets in the area could well be held for 4 to 6 months.

d. Search of River Areas - COMOR has prepared a special justification for coverage of selected river areas

As stated above, this coverage will result in some further coverage of the Szechwan Basin.

e. Taiwan Straits - Unless collateral indicates ominous activity, it is not proposed that special coverage be obtained of this area within the next quarter. However, targets will continue to be made available to Operations for coverage when feasible incident to any of the above.

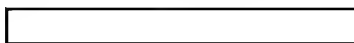
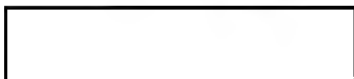
f. Recoverage for surveillance of South China, Laos\*, and North Vietnam will be required in July and August. Laos and North Vietnam have been well covered in May.

\*The Department of State member questions the need for the coverage of Laos with the frequency indicated.

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g. Holidays in Communist China - Operations has been advised of the holidays in aerial reconnaissance of Communist China. COMOR has already recommended that flight planning include coverage of such holidays insofar as feasible without detriment to achievement of the major objectives of the missions indicated by requirements above.

4. Recommendation: That reconnaissance be conducted to meet the requirements in paragraph 3 above.

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James Q. Reber  
Chairman  
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

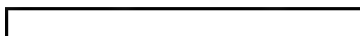
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